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# THE EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST

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\*                   In the old days of "Log Rollings" and "Barn Raisings"                   \*

\* when everybody turned out to help a neighbor clear a piece of                   \*

\* land or put up the framework of a barn, there was always a                   \*

\* leader who gave the word and directed each move of the work-                   \*

\* ers. That is just what is happening today in all successful                   \*

\* extension work. A good example of what can be accomplished                   \*

\* where everybody gets together under a competent leader is                   \*

\* found in the recent running of the "Certified Seed Potato                   \*

\* Special" in Missouri, with the Extension Service, the rail-                   \*

\* roads, and the potato growers all cooperating. The report of                   \*

\* this enterprise as contained in the following pages is well                   \*

\* worth reading.                   \*

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Office of Horticultural Investigations  
and Extension Service Cooperating  
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## Certified Seed Potatoes in Missouri.

Demonstrations and experiments in the State of Missouri during the past few years have shown beyond a doubt the value of northern grown certified seed for the production of the general potato crop. Earl M. Page, Extension Professor of Horticulture of the University of Missouri, and the extension county agents of the State, have known about the value of this certified seed for sometime and have been telling the growers whom they met in their rounds just what it means to them, but it took something more than this to really put the certified seed project across. For the past two years field meetings have been held in the important potato producing sections and many of the growers have given the results obtained on their farms.

Recently it seemed to the leaders that the time had arrived to make the master stroke in putting over the certified seed potato lesson, and the growers who desired to purchase certified seed for the next year's planting were told that owing to the condition of the potato market, it would be desirable to purchase their seed this fall. The railroad authorities were interviewed as were also the growers of certified seed potatoes in Minnesota. As a result the seed potatoes were purchased at a price slightly below the regular market and the potatoes were rolled into Missouri on a special train and the arrival of the train at the points where the care of potatoes were to be delivered was made the occasion for a big demonstration. "Missourians may have to be shown," but today they are "telling the world" about the value of certified seed potatoes.

The following is taken from the October 21st number of the Missouri Farm News Service:

### Missouri Potato Growers Buy Train-load of Certified Seed.

"The biggest single event in the history of truck crop production in Missouri occurred Tuesday, October 20th, when a full trainload of northern grown, certified seed potatoes was received at the town of Anglum over the Wabash railroad. The trainload consisted of twenty-one cars of certified Irish Cobblers from the Hollandale district of Minnesota. Each car contained from 600 to 700 bushels of potatoes, certified true to name, grown from selected and treated seed of high producing strains, and found by rigid field inspection to be free from potato diseases.

The potato growers of St. Louis, St. Charles and Jefferson Counties ordered this immense shipment of certified seed because they are convinced that the resulting crop will be worth at least \$60,000 more than a crop grown from ordinary home-grown seed. This belief is based on the results of thirty-five demonstrations conducted by potato growers in fourteen counties in 1924 in cooperation with the Extension Service of the Missouri College of Agriculture. The average increase from certified seed was 59.8 bushels per acre and a carload of seed potatoes will plant 50 acres. Each carload of genuine certified northern grown seed potatoes which replaced ordinary seed in these demonstrations gave an increased return worth \$2,990.00.



The shipment of potatoes came direct from the producers in the Hollandale district of Minnesota, through their cooperative marketing association, and was received at the Florissant Valley cooperative elevator. To mark the importance of this transaction between the farmers of one state and those of another a large number of potatoes and general farmers met October 20 at Anglum where talks were made by a number of speakers from the Missouri College of Agriculture and the organizations cooperating.

Bringing this trainload of certified seed potatoes into Missouri is but a part of the state-wide campaign for more economical production of potatoes carried on by the Extension Service of the Missouri College of Agriculture under the leadership of E. M. Page. Results already obtained from the use of certified northern grown seed, and the treatment of seed for prevention of disease have convinced potato growers in all parts of Missouri that these practices will greatly improve both the yield and quality of potatoes at a very small increase in cost.

Highly successful demonstrations of these practices have been conducted by the College during the last three years in all sections of the State. In 1924, St. Louis County Missouri potato growers used 26 cars of northern grown certified seed, in 1925 they used 40 cars, and for use in 1926 they have already ordered 40 cars. By the time potatoes are planted next spring this number will be greatly increased.

This widespread adoption of modern practice by the potato growers of Missouri indicates that the efforts of the Agricultural Extension Service are proving highly effective in advancing the interests and increasing the prosperity of the State. In the present instance the College has the cooperation of the Wabash Railway Company, the St. Louis County Farm Bureau, the St. Charles County Farm Bureau, the Jefferson County Farm Bureau and the cooperative agencies of the Minnesota potato growers."

The plan to handle the potatoes by special train and hold meetings on its arrival was announced by the Railroad Company by means of large and attractive posters. Following the operation of the train and delivery of the potatoes, Mr. Page on October 23 sent out a circular letter to extension agents throughout the State giving the history and facts regarding the certified seed potato train and offering to send further copies of the posters - these to be used in working up interest in similar enterprises in other parts of the State. We look upon this as an outstanding and important piece of extension work, and while it is a little more spectacular than is practical under most circumstances, the operation of this train will doubtless prove an important factor in attracting the attention of the potato growers of Missouri and other states to the value of certified seed potatoes.

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Nobody appears to have noticed that the "Extension Horticulturist" failed to appear for two months. We have no apology to make, as everybody was busy and very little in the way of material had been received. It is our aim to make the Horticulturist a medium for the exchange of ideas pertaining to the conduct of extension work, and at times when we do not have material which we think is of real interest, its publication may go over for one or two months. We do wish that the men in the states might find it possible to contribute more for publication in the Horticulturist.







## Potato News Notes.

Prof. A. K. Gardner of Maine, is devoting about half of his time to the potato work and is pushing it hard. This year better seed campaigns were held in nine counties, and there were 1,851 cooperators using improved seed. Besides these there were 215 seed plots of one acre or less. These were rogued four times. There were 44 demonstrations in seed treatment last spring. About 60 boys are in the potato club work.

In Iowa, Prof. C. L. Fitch was instrumental in having five cars of seed potatoes given the hot formalin treatment in transit. These cars were run on a siding at the Iowa State College and the treating apparatus was placed at the car door. Several sacks of potatoes were dipped one time into hot formalin at 120 degrees for a period of two and one-half minutes. The cost of this treatment was 10¢ per bushel.

In two counties in Iowa, 100 potato growers each tested 60 hills of certified Early Cobbler seed and the same amount of Early Ohio seed, all from Minnesota. There were 136 farmers in 44 counties who each planted 16 one peck lots of seed representing 16 individual growers of certified seed stock.

An agreement was made last spring with the commercial club of Moorhead, Minnesota, whereby this club raised \$200 to cover the expense of Prof. Fitch in overseeing the production of 4 lots of seed potatoes in the Red River Valley. Seed from 18 certified seed growers was planted on these plots.

Owing to the large number of inquiries received by the Federal Horticultural Board from brokers and dealers relative to the importation of potatoes from European countries into the United States, a conference was held Wednesday afternoon, October 28, for the purpose of considering the advisability of admitting potatoes from certain countries. After listening to the opinions expressed by various members of the Department the Board decided to continue the present restrictions, which virtually exclude potatoes from all foreign countries, except Canada, Bermuda and Cuba.

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### Conference on the Standardization of Vegetable Seeds.

A second conference will be held at the Department of Commerce in Washington, D. C. on Friday, November 6th to continue the work started at the initial conference on May 28th, looking to the simplification of varietal names of vegetables and the standardization of methods of handling vegetable seeds. This conference will be attended by representatives of the American Seed Trade Association, the Vegetable Growers Association of America, and officials of the Department of Agriculture. It is the purpose of this conference to work out a more definite system of nomenclature and general commercial practice, both in the production and the handling of vegetable seeds. This is a matter of vital interest to the extension men, especially those in states where vegetable growing is an important industry.



Personal Notes.

Prof. R. S. Marsh has been appointed Extension Fruit Specialist in Illinois to fill the position made vacant when Prof. W. S. Brock, former Fruit Specialist was transferred to the teaching staff in the Horticultural Department of the University.

Prof. E. R. Lancashire, a graduate of the Michigan Agricultural College, has succeeded Prof. F. C. Gaylord as Vegetable Specialist in Indiana. Prof. Gaylord has been transferred to the Experiment Station staff to do investigational work in the marketing of horticultural crops.

Disease Free Raspberry Plants.

We are in a position now to help the extension men who wish to locate sources of healthy raspberry plants. Will those who are interested please write to us? More demonstration raspberry planting should be done and a revival of raspberry growing for home use should be started.

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Horticultural Extension Literature Received During  
August, September, and October, 1925.

- Arkansas - University of, Fayetteville, Extension Service, Little Rock  
Curing and Marketing Arkansas Sweet Potatoes, Ext. Cir. 198, July, 1925.  
Box Packing of Apples for Market. Ext. Cir. 204, August, 1925.  
Establishing the Commercial Apple Orchard in Arkansas. Ext. Cir. 205, Sept. 1925.
- Georgia State College of Agriculture, Athens.  
Growing Sweet Potatoes in Georgia. Bul. 312, July, 1925.
- Maine - University of - Orono  
Plant Forcers - Construction and Management of Hotbeds and Cold-frames Bul. 153, April, 1925.
- Mississippi Agricultural & Mechanical College, Baton Rouge.  
The Mississippi Vegetable Gardening Manual. Ext. Bul. 28, July, 1924.
- Missouri - University of, Columbia  
Harvesting the Missouri Grape Crop. Cir. 160, March, 1925.  
Increasing Potato Yields, Cir. 163, March, 1925.  
The Calyx Spray. Cir. 164, April, 1925.  
The Third Summer Spray. Cir. 165, April, 1925.  
Spraying Grapes in Missouri. Cir. 166, May, 1925.  
Incorporation Plans for Fruit Marketing Association. Cir. 168, May, 1925.
- Nebraska - University of, Lincoln  
Cane and Bush Fruits for Nebraska. Ext. Cir. 1258, June, 1925.
- New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca.  
Bearded Iris. Bul. 112, June, 1925.  
The Care of the Mature Apple Orchard. Ext. Bul. 114, June, 1925.  
Harvesting, Grading, Packing and Loading Apples. Bul. 126, June, 1925.  
Storage Scald of Apples. Bul. 128, Sept. 1925.
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